



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

June 30, 2003

**POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY CONVICTED FELON
LEADS TO 63-MONTH FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCE**

ORLANDO - United States District Court Chief Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced JOHNSON CARL ROBERTS IV, of Texas, to a term of 63 months' imprisonment in connection with his possession of a rifle during a June 2002 firearms transaction. As a previously convicted felon, Roberts violated federal laws by possessing the firearm. Roberts was indicted by a federal grand jury on the charge for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon on February 12, 2003. In addition to the prison term, Roberts must serve 2 years of supervised release and pay a \$100 special assessment.

According to the facts established at his plea hearing, Roberts sold his father's Interarms, Model Mark X, 30-06 caliber rifle to a local pawn shop on June 4, 2002. When he attempted to retrieve the rifle, a federally mandated background check revealed that Roberts had been convicted of the felony offense of Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer in 1993.

The case is another successful prosecution undertaken as a part of the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.

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